

BOROUGH OF TAUNTON.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health, for the Year 1908.

Population of Borough (1901)	...	...	21,087
Estimated Population to middle of 1908	...	...	22,096
Area in Statute Acres	...	...	1,438
Birth-rate per 1,000 of Population	...	...	20·1
Death-rate per 1,000 of Population	...	...	17·4
Zymotic Death-rate	...	...	·5
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Births	...	...	132·5

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of Taunton.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report of the Health of the Town for the year 1908.

Although as regards the statistical returns for the year there is nothing remarkable, still it has been noted for two very important measures which will tend very greatly in the future to the improved physical condition of the people; I allude to the Medical Inspection of School Children, and the notification of Births, and the action that they entail.

Taken by themselves they might be of little or no use, and merely an additional expense, but when followed up by careful attention to the health and homes of the children, and to the rearing, feeding, and clothing of infants, we may confidently look in the future not merely to a diminished Death-rate, but to a healthier condition—both physically and mentally of the community.

The adoption of these measures make the year noteworthy, and the details will be mentioned by me further on in this Report.

I. Mortality during 1908.

The total Deaths in 1908 were 386, or at the rate of 17·4 per 1,000.

This is the gross number of Deaths, but to make the returns more accurate we must deduct non-residents dying in the Borough, and add residents dying outside the District.

We then find that 59 non-residents died in the Borough, viz.: 47 in the Taunton and Somerset Hospital, and 12 in the Union Workhouse. These being deducted, reduce the number to 323. But to these must be added 5 residents dying in Cotford Asylum, outside the Borough. This makes the net total 328, or at the rate of 15·2 per 1,000.

(a) LOCALITIES.

As regards localities the Deaths were thus distributed :—

Borough	274
Taunton and Somerset Hospital ...	78
Union Workhouse	34
Total ...	386

(b) SEXES.

177 of 386 were Males, and 209 Females.

(c) AGES AT DEATHS.

It may be noted that in 1908, the Deaths under 5 years were fewer, and those from 25 to 65 years and over, greater than in the previous year. Whereas in 1907, the Deaths under 5 years of age numbered 110, this year they were only 78, and of those at the more advanced age they were 224 in 1907, and 278 in 1908.

The Deaths at the various ages were as follows :—

Under 1 year	...	...	...	64
1 to 5 years	...	...	...	14
5 to 15 „	...	...	...	14
15 to 25 „	...	...	...	16
25 to 65 „	...	...	...	144
65 years and upwards	...	...	...	134
				—
Total				386

(d) Deaths in Public Institutions.

The Public Institutions in the Borough are the Taunton and Somerset Hospital, and the Union Workhouse. The total Deaths in them were 112.

1. TAUNTON AND SOMERSET HOSPITAL.

Urban cases	...	...	...	31
Rural „	...	...	...	18
Non-residents from without both Districts				29
				—
				78

2. UNION WORKHOUSE.

Urban cases	...	...	...	22
Rural „	...	...	...	12
				—
				34

II. Causes of Death.

(a) ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

There were only 12 Deaths from Zymotic Diseases, as against 32 in 1907. They were as follows :—

Measles	...	...	...	4 Deaths
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1 „
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	1 „
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	6 „
				—
				12 „

This gives a Zymotic Death-rate of '5.

(b) DEATHS FROM OTHER CAUSES.

The chief other causes of Death were :—

Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	31
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	14
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	23
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	25
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	10
Influenza	...	...	...	...	10
Cancer	...	...	...	...	30
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	11
Premature Births	...	...	...	...	9
Accidents	...	...	...	...	9

III. Births during 1908.

The total Births in the year were 483, or at the rate 20·1 per 1,000 ; as in other parts of the Kingdom the Birth-rate is gradually decreasing. Of these, 25 were illegitimate, viz.: 11 boys and 14 girls.

Infantile Mortality.

The Infantile Mortality, or Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 Births was 132·5.

It was to combat this high Mortality that the Notification of Births' Act was adopted by your Council. Every Birth has now to be notified to me within 36 hours of the Birth by the father of the child, or some one present at the Birth. The penalty in default is 40s.

For the purpose of utilising this Act, a Health Visitor was appointed to visit the homes of those recently confined, and to see to the feeding, clothing, and general sanitary condition of the infant and its surroundings.

In January, Miss Bradley, of Leicester, was elected to the post.

The Act, however, did not come into force until August, 1908, when the approval of the Local Government Board was obtained.

Prior to this, however, voluntary notification was given by the certified midwives in the Town, the result being that from

June 6th to December 31st, 1908, 220 Births were notified. 34 of these were notified by the father, 6 by medical men, and 180 by the midwives. These latter attend by far the greater number of the cases among the working classes in the Town, and they have been most prompt and regular in their notification.

Of course, it is amongst these people that the most good can be done. It is extraordinary what mistaken notions are entertained as regards the feeding of infants. To combat these I drew up, and had printed, a number of directions on the subject which the Health Visitor gives to the mother.

Miss Bradley has given me the following account of her work during the year. She paid 642 visits to new-born children; 13 of the cases notified have left the town; 11 of the 220 children were still-born, 3 of the mothers of these being factory hands.

I may here remark that the infants' health is heavily handicapped by the mother being a factory hand, for instead of being entirely breast-fed, as it should be, it is often left to the tender mercies of some old woman who, with the prejudices of a lifetime, gives it just what it should not have, such as bread, gruel, biscuits, &c.

Hence the mortality from Diarrhœa, Enteritis, and Gastritis, which is also frequently due to the dirty condition of the feeding bottles used.

Miss Bradley further reports:—4 babies died from Enteritis, 3 of these being bottle fed, and 2 of the mothers factory workers; 1 died of Gastritis and Convulsions, it was partly breast and partly bottle fed, and the mother was a factory worker; 1 died of Diarrhœa and Convulsions, breast and bottle fed, mother an out-worker; 1 died of Bronchitis, mother a factory worker; 5 were prematurely born and died in a few days, 2 of the 5 were twins, and 2 of the mothers were factory workers; 1 of a twin died suddenly, being bottle fed.

From these few facts it will be seen that the absence from home all day of the mother at the factory, and the improper feeding and want of cleanliness in the use of bottles, do much to keep up the infant mortality.

It will require time before much improvement will be seen in the lowering of this heavy and unnecessary Death-rate.

Miss Bradley has been kindly received by the mothers, but old prejudices and ignorance (which invariably go hand in hand) have to be overcome, and this is a slow process.

But we may confidently look forward to a diminished Death-rate, and a healthier child, after the Act has been in force for a little time.

IV. Sickness during 1908.

(a) NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

72 Notifications of Infectious Disease reached me during the year. They were as follows:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	51 cases
Diphtheria	...	...	...	5 „
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	2 „
Erysipelas	...	...	...	14 „
				—
				72

45 cases of Scarlet Fever, and 4 of Diphtheria were removed to the Isolation Hospital. It may, however, be noted that 15 of the cases of Scarlet Fever came from one scholastic establishment in the town.

The number of notifications, although more than last year (owing to the cases just mentioned), is below the average of preceding years.

There was fortunately an absence of any epidemic, no Measles or Whooping Cough helping to swell the mortality as in the previous year.

V. Medical Inspection of School Children.

The various Memoranda issued by the Education Department in 1907 and 1908 have been duly considered by your Education Committee.

The Board of Education have made it perfectly clear that they consider that the Medical Inspection of School Children should be an adjunct to, and be in unison with, the various Sanitary Acts throughout the country.

Not merely is the physical and mental condition of each child in an Elementary School to undergo at stated periods of his or her school life a thorough Medical Examination, but the homes and home-life of the children must be investigated, and if necessary put to rights.

Thus it is that the Board insists upon the co-operation and supervision of the Medical Officer of Health.

Having been appointed School Medical Officer, I have during the year 1908 inspected 1,165 children.

Accompanying this Report is my Annual Report on the work I have done, and it would be superfluous here for me to repeat what I have there said, but will merely refer to it for further information.

One point I would however here mention, viz.: the effect of housing and surroundings, and the habits of the parents upon the children that have fallen under my notice.

I have in my former Reports mentioned the great good of the new suburban buildings on the health of the people.

The contrast of the condition of children from open, airy homes, and those from close, ill-ventilated courts is most marked.

Then again the dirty, improvident home is unhappily branded on the child.

The appointment of the Health Visitor, who also acts as School Nurse, cannot fail in time to do great good.

By her constant visits to the various parts of the Town, attention is called to the state of dwellings which would otherwise be passed over.

SANITARY CONDITION OF DWELLINGS.

Fortunately for the health of the Town new houses are being built in the suburbs, and by degrees the old houses in the courts are becoming void.

I have in previous Reports mentioned what a boon it would be to the Town, if, instead of narrow courts at the back of the main streets, gardens and open spaces were to be found.

These courts, which were chiefly built years ago for political reasons,—to accommodate as many as possible within the restricted area of the then Borough,—are quite behind the Sanitary requirements of the twentieth century.

Back-to-back houses with no through ventilation would never be dreamed of now.

The habits of the people are no doubt largely influenced by their surroundings.

It is by educating the coming generation in hygiene,

which includes amongst other things, the necessity of pure air and cleanliness, personal and general, that improvement must be looked for in the future.

Your Inspector reports that 1,218 houses were inspected during the year, and 264 were cleansed, repaired and lime-washed.

236 notices were required to be served for the Sanitary Improvements of Dwellings.

As regards House Drains the Smoke Test was applied in 218 cases, and 179 required repairs. This is often due to the carelessness of the tenants.

The same may be said of the 324 Water Closets that needed repair.

Dust was removed in 364 instances, and 59 accumulations of Manure, &c.

No less than 43 Animals were kept in an improper way, and were removed.

Full details will be found in the Report of Mr. Northcombe, Sanitary Inspector, which accompanies this Report.

SEWERAGE.

In consequence of the greatly increasing building on the north side of the Town, and the consequent greater population, it has been deemed necessary to construct a New Sewer at a cost of £500 which will greatly relieve the present Sewers.

A Local Government Board Enquiry has just been held by W. E. Meade-King, Esq.; an application having been made for a Loan to carry out the work.

WATER SUPPLY.

This has been satisfactory throughout the year. My Quarterly Analysis shows that the water continues to retain all its good qualities. Naturally after heavy rain it is apt to be slightly opalescent, which necessitates thorough and efficient filtration.

DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS.

These number 37, and are frequently inspected. The house-fly being a means of spreading disease it is very necessary that Milk should be so kept as to prevent their access. In the past it has not been uncommon to see them floating on the surface. No Milk should be kept under such circum-

stances. The fly may have thousands of bacilli on its legs and body, which by means of the Milk may be transferred to the human circulation. Such a means of transmission should be rendered impossible by not allowing Milk to be kept where flies can gain admission.

BAKEHOUSES.

These which now number 30 have been inspected, and notices had to be served in some instances. There is no underground Bakehouse.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 11 of these now in the Borough. The building of a large one at Rowbarton has given rise to a great deal of opposition by owners of property in the immediate neighbourhood. It takes the place of the old one on the Canal Bank, which for want of proper construction and means of drainage was certainly a great nuisance.

The new one has been built with all modern appliances, and is beyond the legal limit of distance from houses.

In March a visit was paid by the Mayor, Alderman Spiller, the Inspector and myself, to premises at Bristol and Bath, where pigs were slaughtered on a large scale. After a careful inspection we fail to find any nuisance; more especially was this the case in Bath, where the premises were situated in a large street and surrounded by good houses.

Under these circumstances the Licence was granted for the building at Rowbarton for one year.

On visiting it with your Inspector, I have found no nuisance. Still complaints are made, although the evidence is conflicting, and the matter is still under the consideration of the Health Committee.

I have always advocated Public Abattoirs in the place of Private Slaughter Houses, and the detection of Tuberculous and Diseased Meat will not be rendered certain until they are adopted.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORK-PLACES.

The Inspections of Factories numbered 61, that of Workshops 213, and of Work-places 67, making a total of 341 inspections.

The defects found were 15, all of which were remedied. 6 were due to want of Cleanliness, 1 to defective Sanitary

Accommodation, and 8 to breach of Sanitary Requirements for Bakehouses.

The details of Home-work, Registered Workshops, and other matters will be found in the Tabular Statement which accompanies this Report.

Meteorology of 1908.

1908 was remarkable for the fine bright weather during the Hay and Wheat Harvests.

1. RAINFALL.

The total Rainfall was 24·24 inches. This is below the average, which was 27·86. It fell on 172 days, March and October being the wettest months.

2. SUNSHINE.

The total hours of Sunshine recorded were 1481·5, the greatest amount being registered during the months of June, July, and August, when 742 hours out of the 1481·5 were recorded.

3. TEMPERATURE.

The lowest Temperature reached in ten years was recorded in January, when 20 degrees of Frost were registered. The highest Temperature were reached in June and July, when 84 degrees and 86 degrees were recorded in a Stevenson Screen, 4 feet from the ground level.

In conclusion it will be seen that much has been done during the year to promote the Sanitary Condition of the Town. And much is required in the future. The better Accommodation of Dwellings for the Working Classes, the Inspection of School Children and their Homes, the Visits of the Health Visitor and her Superintendence of the Rearing and Feeding of Infants, all tend to improve the health of the people; but time and perseverance is required before any very evident improvement is perceptible.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HENRY J. ALFORD, M.D., LOND.,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I. TAUNTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1908 and Previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.						Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Under One Year of Age.		At all Ages.						Number.	Rate.*
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number.	Rate.*						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
1898	20,113	544	27.0	65	119.4	302	15.0	73	31	3	—	—	
1899	20,254	562	28.7	110	189.0	388	19.1	89	30	2	—	—	
1900	20,395	535	26.2	84	157.0	427	19.2	77	46	8	389	19.2	
1901	21,078	502	23.8	68	135.4	335	14.2	80	41	7	301	14.2	
1902	21,227	488	22.9	64	131.1	353	16.6	94	45	12	320	15.0	
1903	21,367	532	24.8	85	159.7	380	17.7	63	26	9	363	16.9	
1904	21,516	503	23.3	49	97.7	340	15.8	96	44	19	331	15.3	
1905	21,647	515	23.7	52	100.9	306	14.1	76	41	8	273	12.6	
1906	21,796	489	22.4	60	122.7	381	17.4	112	55	13	339	15.5	
1907	21,945	556	25.3	77	138.4	366	16.6	101	41	11	336	15.3	
Averages for years 1898-1907	21,138	522	25.0	71	135.1	357	16.5	86	40	9	331	15.5	
1908	22,096	483	20.1	64	132.5	386	17.4	112	59	5	323	15.2	

*Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres
(exclusive of area
covered by water)...

1,435

Total population at all ages ...
Number of inhabited houses ...
Average number of persons per house

21,078
4,514
5

At Census of 1901.

TABLE II.

Taunton Urban Sanitary District

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1908
and previous years.

YEAR.	TAUNTON REGISTRATION DISTRICT.			
	Population Estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under One Year.
1898	20,113	544	302	65
1899	20,254	562	388	110
1900	20,395	535	427	84
1901	21,078	502	335	68
1902	21,227	488	353	64
1903	21,367	532	380	85
1904	21,576	503	340	49
1905	21,647	515	306	52
1906	21,796	489	381	60
1907	21,945	556	366	77
Averages of years 1898-1907.	21,139	522	357	71
1908	22,096	483	384	64

TABLE III.

Taunton Urban Sanitary District.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1908.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.								No. of Cases removed to Hospital from each locality.
	At all ages.	At Ages—Years.							
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards.		
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Diphtheria (includi'g Membranous Croup)	5	...	2	2	...	1	...	4	
Erysipelas	14	...	...	...	...	13	1	...	
Scarlet fever ...	51	1	11	23	13	3	...	45	
Typhus fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Enteric fever ...	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	
Relapsing fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Continued fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Puerperal fever ...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Totals	72	1	13	25	14	18	1	49	

TABLE IV.

TAUNTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year, 1908.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.
	All ages.	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	4	...	3	1	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping-cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Other continued ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic influenza ...	10	...	...	...	1	4	5	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa ...	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis ...	11	9	...	...	...	1	1	...
Puerperal fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (pulmonary tuberculosis) ...	25	...	...	1	7	17	...	5
Other tuberculous diseases	10	2	2	5	...	...	1	4
Cancer, malignant disease	30	...	...	...	...	20	10	10
Bronchitis ...	23	4	...	...	1	8	10	1
Pneumonia ...	14	7	2	1	1	2	1	5
Pleurisy ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of respira- tory organs ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism ... }	5	...	...	...	...	5	...	2
Cirrhosis of liver }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Venereal diseases ...	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	2
Premature birth ...	9	9	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition ...	3	1	...	...	...	2	...	...
Heart diseases... ...	31	...	...	1	2	14	14	6
Accidents ...	9	1	...	1	...	3	4	6
Suicides ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
All other causes ...	191	24	5	4	4	66	88	71
All causes ...	386	64	14	14	16	144	134	112

TABLE V. TAUNTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1908.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total under 1 Year.
All causes.	Certified	13	3	2	2	20	6	5	4	5	5	4	6	3	1	1	4	64
	Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
I. Common Infectious Diseases.	Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Chicken-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Diphtheria (includi'g Membranous Croup)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
II. Diarrhoeal Diseases.	Whooping-cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Diarrhoea (all forms)...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5
	Enteritis(Muco-enteritis,Gastro-enteritis)	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	2	2	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	11
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal catarrh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
III. Wasting Diseases.	Premature birth	8	1	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
	Congenital defects	1	...	...	1	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
	Injury at birth	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
	Want of breast-milk, Starvation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
IV. Tuberculous Diseases.	Atrophy, debility, marasmus	1	1	2	...	4	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	7
	Tuberculous meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Tuberculous peritonitis: tabes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	mesenterica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
V. Other Causes.	Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Rickets...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Meningitis (not tuberculous)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Convulsions	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
	Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	1	1	...	1	...	...	7
	Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other causes	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	5
		13	3	2	2	20	6	5	4	5	5	4	6	3	1	1	4	64

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE, 1908.

MONTH.	Barometer.			Thermometer.			Sunshine.		Rainfall.	
	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.	Hours.	Sunless Days.	Inches.	Days Rain fell.
January	30.11	30.52	29.15	37.7 ⁰	59 ⁰	12 ⁰	60.5	10	1.04	15
February	30.08	30.72	29.30	43.1 ⁰	53 ⁰	26 ⁰	55.5	10	2.06	18
March	29.82	30.17	29.14	40.8 ⁰	57 ⁰	22	91.5	8	3.18	18
April	29.86	30.38	29.37	46.4 ⁰	63 ⁰	28 ⁰	150.0	1	2.09	13
May	29.70	30.47	29.30	56.1 ⁰	76 ⁰	37 ⁰	179.5	—	1.60	15
June	30.09	30.36	29.67	59.5 ⁰	84 ⁰	38 ⁰	283.5	—	.33	6
July	29.91	30.46	29.46	64.2 ⁰	86 ⁰	49 ⁰	230.5	1	1.32	10
August	29.99	30.36	29.46	62.0 ⁰	80 ⁰	42 ⁰	228.0	4	2.63	13
September	29.92	30.26	29.23	56.4 ⁰	70 ⁰	38 ⁰	138.5	5	2.70	20
October	30.06	30.37	29.81	53.4 ⁰	77 ⁰	32 ⁰	87	9	3.54	14
November	30.02	30.37	29.61	47.6 ⁰	60 ⁰	22 ⁰	77	5	1.09	11
December	29.52	30.36	28.90	42.0 ⁰	54 ⁰	22 ⁰	39	12	2.73	19

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

For the Year 1908,

FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF TAUNTON,

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901,
in connection with

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces & Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS
OF NUISANCES.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecu- tions. (4)
FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries.)	61	...	...
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries.)	213	...	...
WORKPLACES (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report.)	67	...	...
Total	341	...	...

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness	6	6	...	...
Want of ventilation	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors ...	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances	...	...	...	...
Sanitary { insufficient	...	...	...	...
accommo- { unsuitable or de-	1	1	...	...
dation { fective				
not separate for sexes	...	...	...	...
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of under- ground bakehouse (s. 101) ...	...	...	...	...
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)	8	8	...	...
Other offences	...	...	...	...
(Excluding offences relating to outwork which are in- cluded in Part 3 of this Report.)				
Total	15	15	...	...

3.—HOME WORK.

NATURE OF WORK.	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.											OUTWORK IN UN- WHOLE SOME PREMISES, SECTION 108.			OUTWORK IN IN- FECTED PREMISES, SECTIONS 109, 110.				
	Lists received from Employers.			Addresses of Outworkers.			Prosecutions.												
	Twice in the Year.		Once in the Year.		Lists.	Con- tractors	Work- men.	Re- ceived from other Coun- cils.	For- warded to other Coun- cils.	Fail- ing to keep or per- mit in- spec- tion of Lists.	Fail- ing to send Lists.	Number of Inspections of Outworkers' premises.	Instances.	Orders made (S. 110).	Prosecutions (Sections 109, 110).				
Lists.	Con- tractors	Work- men.	(2)	(3)												(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing Apparel— (1) Making, &c. ... (2) Cleaning and washing Lace, lace curtains and nets Artificial Flowers ... Nets, other than wire nets Tents ... Sacks ... Furniture and Upholstery Fur pulling ... Feather sorting ... Umbrellas, &c. ... Carding, &c., of buttons, &c. Paper Bags and Boxes Basket making Brush making Racquet and Tennis Balls... Stuffed Toys ... File making ... Electro Plate Cables and Chains ... Anchors and Grapnels Cart Gear Locks, Latches and Keys ... Pea picking ... Total...	46 4 2 ... 																		

TAUNTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.		Number.
(1)		(2)
Important classes of Workshops, such as workshop bakehouses, may be enumerated here.	Bakehouses	30
	Dressmakers, 23; Milliners, 13; Tailors, 8; Boot & Shoe, 6; Rags, 1	51
	Brush and Clogs, 1; Cabinet and Upholsterers, 8; Plumbers and Painters, 13	22
	Glove and Gaiters, 2; Saddlers, 2; Carpenters, 13	17
	Carriage, 3; Smith and Wheelwrights, 12; Scales, 1; Tinmen, 2	18
	Cycle, 6; Cooper, 1; Dyer, 1; Engraver, 2; Guns, 1; Jeweller, 4	15
	Basket, 1; Box (paper), 1; Laundry, 1; Organ, 2; Piano, 1	6
	Picture, 1; Sculptor, 3; Wool Stapler, 1; Bottle Washing, 2	7
	Photographer	2
	Domestic Workshops	170
	Work-places	13
	Total number of workshops on Register *	351

* 168 Workshops, 170 Domestic Workshops, and 13 Workplaces.

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
(1)	(2)
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories:—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133)	...
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5) ...	Notified by H.M. Inspector Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector
Other	1 1
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101):	...
Certificates granted during the year	...
In use at the end of the year	...

February 4th, 1909.

HENRY J. ALFORD, M.D., LOND.,
Medical Officer of Health.

TAUNTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Inspector of Nuisances' Report of the Sanitary Work completed in the Year 1908 (J. W. Northcombe, Certified Inspector).

Number of Complaints to Sanitary Officer ...					...	...	42		
Number of Inspections, House to House, Premises, &c.					...	1,218			
,, Re-Inspections of Houses, Premises, &c.					...				
Results of Inspection.	Orders issued for Sanitary Amendments of Houses, Premises, &c.					}	236		
	Houses, Premises, &c., Cleaned, Repaired, Lime-washed, &c.								
	Houses Disinfected after Illness of an Infectious Character						82		
	Drains Tested with Smoke Test					...	...	218	
	Pollution of Stream					...	...	...	
Drains (House)	Soil Pipes Repaired and Renewed					...	...	6	
	Repaired, Cleansed, Trapped, &c.					...	...	179	
Water Closets.	Repaired					...	...	324	
	Supplied with Water					..	...	4	
	New Provided					...	...	87	
Dust Bins.	Repaired, Covered, &c.					...	...	3	
Water Supply.	Main Draw-off Taps fixed					...	...	16	
	Cisterns Cleaned, Repaired, Covered, &c.					...	...		
	Houses Supplied with Corporation Water					...	...	2	
	Wells unfit for Use and Condemned					...	...	2	
Miscellaneous.	Number of Lodging Houses Registered					...	...	3	
	Dust Removal. Number of Communications received and attended to					...	...	} 364	
	Removal of Accumulation of Dung, Stagnant Water, Animal and other Refuse					...	...		
	Animals Removed, being improperly kept					...	...	43	
	Regularly Inspected.	Bakehouses					...	...	30
		Licensed Cowsheds					...	...	5
		Dairies and Milkshops, &c.					...	...	37
		Licensed Slaughter Houses					...	...	11
(2,776 Articles of Bedding, &c., Disinfected at Steam Disinfector.)									

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

School Medical Officer for the Year 1908.

To the Taunton Education Committee.

Taunton, January, 1909.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1908 as Medical Inspector of Children in the Elementary Schools of the Borough.

Before going into any details it may be as well to review the various steps which have been taken with regard to this subject of Medical Inspection.

In November, 1907, a Memorandum (Circular 576) was issued by the Board of Education, which dealt with the scope and purpose of the New Education (Administrative Provision) Act, 1907.

It strongly insisted on the inter-relationship of the Educational and Sanitary Authorities, and on the Medical Inspection of Children being a powerful adjunct to the Sanitary Acts, whereby not only are the Physical and Mental Conditions of the rising generation looked after, but their Homes and the Sanitary surroundings and conditions made a subject of special care.

Much has been heard of the deterioration of the race, and very much is known of the wretched condition in which many of the children of the working classes live ; the object insisted on is then the bringing up of the rising generations under more happy circumstances.

Bad feeding, bad clothing, insanitary homes have all tended in the past to lower the standard of health in children, and the want of recognizing the physical and mental condition of children at School, and adopting the means employed in their Education to their various needs in the past, has led in many cases to impairment of health for life.

It is to remedy all this that the present action of the Board of Education has taken place.

The good results cannot immediately be recognized, but it cannot fail in the long run to produce citizens more sound and healthy, both in mind and body.

The Memorandum insists on the Medical Inspection of Children, and this at stated periods : first, on the admission of the child to the School ; the second at or about the third year of School life (about seven years of age) ; the third at or about the sixth year of School life (ten years of age) ; and a last one as the child leaves the School.

A School Nurse as well as Medical Officer is necessary, and the presence of the Parents is much to be desired, and the co-operation of the Teachers cannot fail to be of great assistance.

A number of regulations are laid down as regards the time and place of examination, the registers to be kept, and with regard to the Annual Report of the Medical Officer, which must be for the calendar year.

On the 23rd of January, 1908, a Circular (582) was issued by the Board of Education giving further details, and also a Schedule of Medical Examination with notes for the Inspecting Officer. All these details of each child have to be kept, one at each School, and another at the Offices of the Education Committee.

On August 17th, 1908, another Circular (No. 596) was issued, which dealt with—

1. The functions of the School Medical Officer.
2. Provision for Medical Inspection under the Code, 1908.
3. The Annual Report on Medical Inspection.
4. Arrangements for attending to the Health and Physical Condition of the Children.

In this Circular the duties of the School Medical Officer are greatly extended, and the various points to be dealt with in the Annual Report laid down ; which should deal with the whole subject of School Hygiene. One of the first items mentioned includes a general review of the Hygienic Condition of the Schools.

Their Ventilation, Lighting, Warming, Equipment, and general Sanitation are subjects on which much will have to be said.

Of the ten Schools in the Borough, one pre-eminently fulfils the requirements of an up-to-date School, in which all these various matters are efficiently and admirably carried out. I refer to the North Town Provided School.

The nine other Schools are all Schools which have been taken over by the Education Authority, but some of which fall very short of what a School should be, if it is to ensure the health of the children.

Much money and energy has been spent to render them more efficacious, but either from situation or surroundings, or original construction, several fall below the necessary requirements.

I have not as yet had sufficient time to go thoroughly into these matters, but the recent Report of H.M. Inspector shows that much has to be done in the future.

The Board of Education require in the first Inspection that all "new comers" and all "leaving School" should be examined.

As I found from the Teachers that there would be some difficulty in defining those leaving, I took all children over twelve years of age.

The Health Visitor, who was appointed in January last, is also School Nurse, and is of great assistance in the examination.

As all kinds of absurd ideas were abroad with regard to the Inspection, it may be well briefly to mention the various steps I take in the matter.

I first visit the School and see the Head Teacher, whether of the Boys', Girls', or Infants' Department as required, and arrange with them the day and hour of my Inspection, which would best suit their convenience. I leave with them the card

for each child to be examined, and they fill in the name, date of birth, and residence, and also fill in the forms to be sent to the Parents, informing of the time and hour of Inspection. These are generally delivered by one of the School Attendance Officers.

A room is then selected for the examination. Twenty feet and a good light is required for the vision testing, in some cases somewhat difficult to find. This is measured and marked. The weighing machine and the height standard are fixed, and all is ready.

On my visit the children come in one or two at a time, bringing their cards with them. Their boots are then taken off, their height and weight taken, their teeth and throats examined. The condition of clothing and boots recorded, the state of hair and body as to cleanliness, and the nutrition and mental condition, the heart and lungs examined, and then the vision of both eyes, right and left, tested by Snellen's Test Types, their hearing and other peculiarities or defects ascertained, and all recorded by me on the child's card.

I find that when one has once got into the methodical way of examination, the time on the average need not exceed four to five minutes. Of course, in many cases (especially in cases where the vision is defective) the time is longer. On the other hand, the infants take a shorter time, vision testing and a few other details being omitted.

The School work was in no way interfered with by the examination.

The number of visits I paid to the ten Schools was seventy-two.

I find the parents take great interest in the Inspection, and were often anxious to know the height and weight of their children, and their general condition as to health. Their presence, too, is of great help in informing one as regards the past history of the child.

When not present the School Nurse visits the home, and obtains all the information required on the subject. A number of circumstances prevent the parents' presence, but 441 attended.

It may be well to enumerate here the number of Children on the Roll in the Schools in December, 1908 :—

South Street	..	..	..	..	349
Central	..	..	..	..	557
Memorial	..	..	..	..	191
North Town Council	..	..	..	..	674
Original Infants	..	..	..	..	134
St. Andrew's	..	..	..	..	643
St. George's	..	..	..	..	60
St. James'	..	..	..	..	348
St. John's	..	..	..	..	165
Holy Trinity	..	..	..	..	469
Total	..	..	..	..	<u>3590</u>

I will now proceed with the work of the Inspection.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED.

The total number of Children I examined were 1,165, of which 633 were boys, and 532 girls.

Their numbers at the Schools at which they attended are given below :—

TABLE I.

SCHOOLS.	Boys.	Girls.	TOTAL.
North Town C.	149	141	290
St. Andrew's	128	69	197
Central	109	80	189
Trinity	65	57	122
St. James'	60	47	107
South Street	43	53	96
Memorial	17	40	57
St. John's	27	20	47
Original Infants	23	17	40
St. George's	12	8	20
Total	633	532	1165

As regards the ages of the Children examined, by far the greater number were those of twelve years of age, there being 352 at that age. Three hundred and seventy-nine were under five years of age, and may be looked upon as Infants, in fact, some up to eight years were still in the Infant Department.

Below is a Table of them according to their various ages :—

TABLE II.

AGES.					Boys.	Girls.	TOTAL.
2 years	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
3 "	..	..	..	..	78	56	134
4 "	..	..	..	..	69	53	122
5 "	..	..	..	..	72	50	122
6 "	..	..	..	..	32	32	64
7 "	..	..	..	..	21	20	41
8 "	..	..	..	..	17	26	43
9 "	..	..	..	..	14	4	18
10 "	..	..	..	..	14	7	21
11 "	..	..	..	..	34	29	63
12 "	..	..	..	..	183	169	352
13 "	..	..	..	..	82	72	154
14 "	..	..	..	..	12	13	25
15 "	..	..	..	..	4	1	5
Total	..	..	..	..	633	532	1165

Table III. gives the total numbers examined, giving the Schools, ages, and sexes.

TABLE III.

Children Inspected 1908, according to School, Ages, and Sexes.

SCHOOL.	2 years.		3 years.		4 years.		5 years.		6 years.		7 years.		8 years.		9 years.		10 years.		11 years.		12 years.		13 years.		14 years.		15 years.		TOTALS.		
	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	
North Town C. ..	..	..	15	6	12	16	20	13	8	11	7	7	8	18	9	4	3	4	5	12	35	27	22	17	3	5	2	1	149	141	290
St. Andrew's ..	..	..	22	8	14	10	18	7	4	7	1	4	..	2	..	..	..	..	4	..	42	24	18	6	4	1	1	..	128	69	197
Central ..	..	..	12	13	11	6	5	9	6	4	3	3	6	1	3	..	7	..	13	4	23	25	16	13	3	2	1	..	109	80	189
Trinity ..	..	..	10	8	14	9	7	7	3	1	1	2	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	22	19	7	7	1	1	..	..	65	57	122
St. James' ..	..	..	8	5	3	4	7	3	..	2	2	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	29	25	10	5	..	1	..	..	60	47	107
South Street ..	..	..	4	10	4	5	8	4	5	2	6	1	..	1	2	..	1	..	3	7	10	18	..	5	..	..	..	..	43	53	96
Memorial ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	3	2	12	22	1	13	..	2	..	..	17	40	57
St. John's ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	3	1	1	..	1	1	..	..	2	2	4	2	7	6	6	6	..	1	..	..	27	20	47
Original Infants ..	..	1	..	6	4	10	2	4	6	2	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23	17	40
St. George's ..	..	..	..	1	2	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	3	3	2	..	1	..	..	..	12	8	20
Total ..	1	..	78	56	69	53	72	50	31	32	21	20	17	26	15	4	14	7	34	29	183	169	82	72	12	13	4	1	633	532	1165

Having thus given the numbers of Children examined, with their sexes and ages, I have to report on their general Physical and Mental Condition, and the various defects that I have detected.

Speaking generally as regards their clothing, cleanliness, and general appearance I found them in a very satisfactory condition.

This is no doubt to a considerable degree due to the fact that the parents, knowing of the Inspection, had taken extra care, and in many cases had dressed them in their "Sunday best."

But I found the great line of demarcation between the healthy, clean, and well-dressed, and the palid, dirty, and often ragged children was due to the locality from whence they came.

The difference in those coming from the new, open, and healthy suburbs of Rowbarton, and those from the close Courts of Shuttern, East Reach, and High Street was most marked.

But perhaps even of more importance than the locality was the condition of the homes and surroundings from which they came.

The ne'er-do-well parent is impressed on the general condition of the child, and points to the necessity of the homes of the children being well looked after as well as the School.

Schedule 582, issued by the Education Department in January, 1908, gives the details of the work of Medical Inspection, and I cannot do better than follow it seriatim.

After entering the Name, Address, Date of Birth, and School of the Child, the first item to be ascertained is its Personal History.

This is divided into two parts, viz. : (1) The previous Illnesses of the Child ; and (2) the Family Medical History if exceptional.

The chief Diseases of Childhood are Measles, Whooping Cough, Chicken Pox, Scarlet Fever, and Diptheria. And of these I find Measles much the more frequent, the numbers being nearly double of that of any of the others. Whereas 825 out of the 1,165 children had suffered from Measles, 502 had had Whooping Cough, 301 Chicken Pox, 89 Scarlet Fever, and 10 only Diptheria.

Subjoined is a Table showing the number of children with previous illnesses, arranged according to Schools, age, and sex :

TABLE IV.

Previous Illnesses of Children Tabulated according to School and Sex.

SCHOOL.	Measles.		Whooping Cough.		Chicken Pox.		Scarlet Fever.		Diphtheria.		Other Illnesses.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
North Town C. ..	124	106	75	76	27	55	15	19	2	1	3	2
St. Andrew's ..	84	47	54	36	27	23	8	8	4	..	..	..
Central ..	79	67	34	36	25	22	..	..	..	..	2	1
Trinity ..	42	41	25	27	22	13	2	6	..	..	..	..
St. James' ..	10	9	7	5	3	3	1	..	..	..	..	..
South Street ..	36	45	22	24	19	24	6	5	..	..	..	..
Memorial ..	17	40	7	20	8	10	3	9	1	2	..	..
St. John's ..	18	18	17	16	4	6	2	3	..	..	..	..
Original Infants ..	14	13	8	4	3	3	..	1	..	..	..	..
St. George's ..	8	7	5	4	2	2	1	..	..	..	..	..

The second part regarding Personal History refers to any Family Medical History if exceptional.

Phthisis or Pulmonary Consumption is the only disease I can find as being prevalent.

In 210 cases I find deaths due to this disease in one or more of the immediate relatives of the children.

After entering the Date of Inspection, the Standard and Regularity of Attendance of the Child has to be recorded.

Table V. gives the various Standards attained by the children inspected, arranged according to School and sex, and also the attendance, all cases being "good," unless coming under the denominations "fair" or "bad."

1. CLOTHING AND FOOTGEAR.

I only found this bad in 18 cases, and 14 of these were boys and only 4 girls.

There was a bad Family History in these cases.

2. HEIGHT AND WEIGHT.

As already stated, the height and weight of every child was taken and recorded.

These have to be given both according to the English and metrical measures.

Much inference cannot be drawn from Table VI., because the children at the various ages differed so much in numbers, at some ages there being only 18 or 25 children and at others from 1 to 300.

As a rule, however, it will be found that the girls are not so heavy as the boys, although there may not be much difference in their heights.

Table VI. gives the average height at each year from 3 to 15 years in feet and inches, and centimetres, and the average weight for a similar period in stones and lbs., and kilograms, the two sexes being given separately.

TABLE V.

Standards and Attendances of Children.

SCHOOL.	Infants.		1st Standard.		2nd Standard		3rd Standard.		4th Standard.		5th Standard.		6th Standard.		7th Standard.		ATTENDANCE.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Fair.	Bad.
North Town C. . .	55	50	7	9	12	11	10	7	11	16	19	32	22	16	13	..	4	17
St. Andrew's . .	59	38	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	5	20	5	26	18	14	3	5	..
Central . .	37	36	1	18	4	17	13	8	12	1	12	..	21	..	9	..	33	23
Trinity . .	35	27	..	..	..	2	1	2	4	2	10	8	14	15	1	1	19	..
St. James' . .	21	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	14	15	10	10	8	6	..	..
South Street . .	27	22	..	..	4	3	2	4	1	2	6	13	3	9	..	..	24	6
Memorial . .	..	..	..	1	..	1	4	1	2	11	10	19	1	5	..	2	11	1
St. John's . .	6	2	18	14	..	2	2	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Original Infants	23	17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	10
St. George's . .	3	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	2	3	2	..	..	5	..
Total . .	266	212	27	42	20	36	32	23	47	38	96	94	100	75	45	12	108	67

TABLE VI.

Average Height and Weight of Children at Various Ages.

AGES.					HEIGHT.		WEIGHT.		
					English ft. ins.	Metric Centi- metres.	English. st. lbs.	Metric Kilograms.	
Boys—									
3 years	..	..	..	..	3 0	91·5	2 4	14·5	
4 "	..	..	..	..	3 3	99·1	2 7	15·9	
5 "	..	..	..	..	3 3	99·1	2 8	16·3	
6 "	..	..	..	..	3 6	106·7	2 9	16·8	
7 "	..	..	..	..	3 7	109·2	3 4	20·9	
8 "	..	..	..	..	4 0	121·8	3 8	22·7	
9 "	..	..	..	..	4 2	127·0	4 1	25·9	
10 "	..	..	..	..	4 3	129·6	4 2	26·3	
11 "	..	..	..	..	4 3	129·6	4 8	29·0	
12 "	..	..	..	..	4 2	127·0	4 5	27·7	
13 "	..	..	..	..	4 6	137·2	5 7	35·0	
14 "	..	..	..	..	5 0	152·3	6 0	38·1	
15 "	..	..	..	..	5 1	155·0	7 0	44·5	
GIRLS—									
3 years	..	..	..	..	3 0	91·5	2 3	14·0	
4 "	..	..	..	..	3 3	99·1	2 6	15·4	
5 "	..	..	..	..	3 3	99·1	2 7	15·9	
6 "	..	..	..	..	3 5	104·2	3 1	19·5	
7 "	..	..	..	..	3 6	106·6	3 4	20·9	
8 "	..	..	..	..	3 9	114·3	3 8	22·7	
9 "	..	..	..	..	3 9	114·3	3 9	23·1	
10 "	..	..	..	..	3 4	101·6	4 2	26·3	
11 "	..	..	..	..	4 4	132·1	4 7	28·6	
12 "	..	..	..	..	4 6	137·2	5 4	33·6	
13 "	..	..	..	..	4 9	144·8	5 6	34·5	
14 "	..	..	..	..	5 0	152·3	6 5	40·4	
15 "	..	..	..	..	5 1	155·0	6 4	40·0	

3. CLEANLINESS AND CONDITION OF SKIN.

I found 22 cases of Dirty Bodies and 34 of Dirty Heads, the boys being by far the worst, being in the ratio of 40 boys to 16 girls.

When we come to those suffering from Verminous Heads, the ratio was reversed, for there were only 6 boys to 101 girls. The long hair of the girls is the cause of the greater frequency amongst them. The mothers, too, have the greatest aversion to cut off or even shorten the hair. And still, with proper

attention and treatment, the whole thing might be cured in a week !

Ringworm is often very intractable, especially if neglected. There were 12 cases of it, 10 being boys. In many cases it had existed for a long time. Want of cleanliness aggravates the evil. I found many cases with the skin encrusted with a thick layer of dried ointment, skin, and hairs, the daily application of an ointment being supposed to be the only thing necessary, without any ablutions whatever ! The other skin affections I found (and these were not many) were Impetigo, Eczema, Acne, and Herpes, in all these only numbered 25 cases, and were all of a mild character.

4. TEETH.

316 of the children had Carious Teeth, in the great majority of cases, however, only a few were decayed.

Amongst the Infants all were good, and, speaking generally, I was surprised to find them so good and clean. Especially was this the case amongst the girls. The overhauling by a Dentist would be, however, of great advantage in a large number of cases.

5. NOSE AND THROAT.

There were 16 cases of Enlarged Tonsils. These were chronic and slight, and probably conjoined with Adenoids.

Of this latter there were 4 pronounced cases.

There were 2 slight cases of Goitre, and 5 slight cases of Enlarged Cervical Glands.

6. EXTERNAL EYE DISEASE.

Of this there was very little, only 2 cases of Blepharitis and 3 of slight Squint coming under observation.

7. VISION.

This (next to the Teeth) is where I found the most defects.

Tested by Snellen's Test Types at a distance of 20 feet (6 metres), 172 children were found with one or both eyes defective. And this was more prevalent in girls than boys, the former numbering 110 and the latter 62.

The greater strain put upon the eye by fine, close work by girls is, I think, partly responsible for this.

But I believe the difference of vision in the two eyes is very much more universal than is usually supposed. Of the causes and means of remedying this I shall speak further on.

I should mention that children under 6 years were exempted from this examination.

8. EAR DISEASE AND HEARING.

There was a general absence of the former, and the latter was good.

Only one case of Partial Deafness was found, and one of Abscess in the External Ear.

9. MENTAL CONDITION.

This I found in the children who came before me satisfactory.

There were only 5 children who could be classified as Intellectually Dull, 4 boys and one girl.

10. HEART AND CIRCULATION.

11. LUNGS.

12. NERVOUS SYSTEM.

I found no trace of disease of either Heart, Lungs, or Nervous System, or any signs of

13. TUBERCULOSIS.

14. DEFORMITIES AND SPINAL CURVATURE.

These were only 4 in number, and were all Congenital and slight, and in no way interfered with the general health of the child, although in the case of the Lateral Curvature, extra care and rest was given to the child.

15. INFECTIOUS OR CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

I discovered one case of Scarlet Fever, and 2 of Chicken Pox in the course of my Inspections.

The former was desquamating freely. On enquiry I found the boy had been kept at home for a day or two for a Sore Throat and Rash, but feeling well was sent back to School, the mother being in ignorance of the nature of the disease, and it not being diagnosed. I sent him at once to the Isolation Hospital.

The Chicken Pox (which was typical) affected two brothers, who I immediately sent home.

TABLE VII.
Classified Statement of Defects Found.

DEFECTS.						Boys.	Girls.	TOTAL.
1. CLOTHING AND FOOTGEAR.								
	Clothes and Boots Bad	..	..	..	..	14	4	18
2. NUTRITION.								
	Below Normal	..	..	..	..	14	3	17
3. CLEANLINESS AND CONDITION OF SKIN.								
	Head Dirty	..	..	..	..	25	9	34
	Body Dirty	..	..	..	..	15	7	22
	Pediculosis	..	..	..	..	6	101	107
	Ringworm	..	..	..	..	10	2	12
	Acne	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
	Impetigo	..	..	..	..	2	7	9
	Herpes	..	..	..	..	2	3	5
	Eczema	..	..	..	..	7	3	10
4. TEETH.								
	Carious Teeth	..	..	..	..	169	147	316
	Hutchinsonian ditto	..	..	..	..	2	2	4
	Double Row	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
5. NOSE AND THROAT.								
	Enlarged Tonsils	..	..	..	..	8	8	16
	Adenoids	..	..	..	..	2	2	4
	Tonsilitis	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
	Goitre	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
	Enlarged Cervical Glands	..	..	..	..	3	2	5
6. EXTERNAL EYE DISEASE.								
	Blepharitis	..	..	..	..	2	..	2
	Strabismus	..	..	..	..	3	..	3
7. VISION.								
	Defective Vision	..	..	..	..	62	110	172
	Right Eye	..	..	..	..	62	73	135
	Left Eye	..	..	..	..	65	88	153
8. EAR DISEASE AND HEARING.								
	Discharge from Ear	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
	Partially Deaf	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
	Cyst behind Ear	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
9. MENTAL CONDITION.								
	Dull	..	..	..	..	4	1	5
10. HEART AND CIRCULATION.								
	Nil	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11. LUNGS.								
	Nil	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12. NERVOUS SYSTEM.								
	Nil	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
13. TUBERCULOSIS.								
	Nil	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
14. DEFORMITIES AND SPINAL DISEASE.								
	Shortened Hip Joint (Congenital)	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
	Knock-kneed	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
	Deformed Shoulder and Hip (Congenital)	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
	Spinal Curvature (Lateral), Slight	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
16. INFECTIOUS OR CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.								
	Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
	Varicella	..	..	..	..	2	..	2

NUMBER OF CHILDREN REFERRED FOR FURTHER
EXAMINATION.

The mere examination of the child and detection of diseased condition would be of little use in itself unless followed up by further examination.

The cases I have put on one side for this object resolve themselves into two classes :—

- (1) Those affecting the general health of the child ; and
- (2) Local affections.

Under the first head I include those with defective nutrition, 17 in number, and those mentally dull.

Under the second come all skin diseases, affections of the eye and ear and throat, and glandular disease.

The total number of these which are under observation and will require further examination is 349.

Added to these are those to whom directions were given for treatment, the results of which will have to be ascertained by subsequent inspection.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF WHOM DIRECTIONS WERE GIVEN
FOR TREATMENT OF DEFECTS.

In all those cases where the mothers or fathers were present, I gave personal directions as to the steps to be followed to remedy the defects found.

The fulfilment or otherwise of these directions were ascertained by the School Nurse (who is also Health Visitor), and who pays periodical visits to the homes of the children.

This is especially needed in cases of Ringworm, Pediculosis, and various Skin Diseases.

The Ringworm and Pediculosis cases are sent from School, and ordered to seek immediate treatment either at the Hospital or from the Medical Attendant.

If the latter cases (as I have already stated) are not quickly cured, the threat of proceedings for absence from School is used as a stimulant to hurry on the cure.

As regards defects of vision, very much may be done by the avoidance of any strain upon the eyes, such as reading of small print, or by imperfect light, or fine work. This applies equally to the School as well as the Home.

The proper lighting of the School, the direction of the light upon the left side of the child, the clearness and smoothness

of the window glass, the grey colouring of the walls, the clear and large size of the type of the books employed, and the smooth neutral tint of their paper, all have a direct bearing upon the sight of the children.

The necessity of looking after the teeth of the children is of great importance. The daily use of the brush, and the occasional services of the Dentist are very necessary.

But this will take time to be generally adopted, and it is the children themselves that must be instructed in the duty of Cleanliness.

The parents have often but little time to spare for such matters, however essential they may be.

In all cases where necessary I have likewise advised the Teachers, as well as the Parents, where any particular steps had to be taken to remedy any defects found.

The number of cases which called for special directions was 574.

In conclusion I may say that I have had the greatest assistance from the Teachers of all the Schools in my Inspection, and they have most willingly given me all the help they could.

The Parents, too, have shown great interest and afforded me all the information in their power.

And, lastly, the Children themselves have been wonderfully good, even to the smallest of the Infants, and a cry has been very exceptional.

The labour is, of course, much lightened and the time of inspection shortened by the assistance of the School Nurse.

I have not in this, my first Annual Report, touched on many of the points mentioned in the Memorandum of the Education Board.

The time has been short, the work new, and the labour considerable, but as time goes on I hope to elaborate some of the other matters mentioned, and for the carrying out of which time will be required.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HENRY J. ALFORD, M.D., Lond.,

School Medical Officer.